

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A resin composition comprising (A) a hydrolyzed ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer and (B) a water-swellaable inorganic compound having a layer structure and having a cation exchange capacity of at least 100 meq/100g, wherein said resin composition is prepared by melt-mixing said copolymer (A) having a water content of 20 to 50% by weight and said inorganic compound (B) in an extruder under the following condition (1):

$$200 < R \times W < 8,000(1)$$

wherein R is a residence time (second) of (A) and (B) in the extruder from the introduction of both (A) and (B) into the extruder up to the extrusion thereof from the extruder, and W is a consumed electric power (kW) of the extruder.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said copolymer (A) and said inorganic compound (B) are present in an A/B ratio of 99.5/0.5 to 50/50 by weight.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, which has a water content of 0.1 to 3% by weight.

5. (Original) A laminate having at least one layer made from the resin composition of claim 1.